

189.292 Use of personal communication device prohibited while operating motor vehicle in motion on traveled portion of roadway -- Exclusions.

- (1) As used in this section, "personal communication device" means a device capable of two (2) way audio or text communication that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers communication to the possessor, including but not limited to a paging device and a cellular telephone.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, no person shall, while operating a motor vehicle that is in motion on the traveled portion of a roadway, write, send, or read text-based communication using a personal communication device to manually communicate with any person using text-based communication, including but not limited to communications referred to as a text message, instant message, or electronic mail.
- (3) Subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to:
 - (a) The use of a global positioning system feature of a personal communication device;
 - (b) The reading, selecting, or entering of a telephone number or name in a personal communication device for the purpose of making a phone call;
 - (c) An operator of an emergency or public safety vehicle, when the use of a personal communication device is an essential function of the operator's official duties; or
 - (d) The operator of a motor vehicle who writes a text message on a personal communication device to:
 1. Report illegal activity;
 2. Summon medical help;
 3. Summon a law enforcement or public safety agency; or
 4. Prevent injury to a person or property.

Effective: July 15, 2010

History: Created 2010 Ky. Acts ch. 110, sec. 2, effective July 15, 2010.